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17 July 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

Cyprus-Turkey: The Turks claim to have obtained recently a new Greek military plan for possible action against Turkey in eastern Thrace which they may use to justify a military build-up in this area.

According to the alleged contingency plan dated 10 July, the Greek armed forces would launch a pincer movement designed to encircle Turkish forces in eastern Thrace.

The problem of resupplying the 650-man Turkish Army contingent on Cyprus apparently is reaching the critical stage. Last month Greek Cypriot officials informed Ankara that they would not allow further resupply of the contingent from Turkey, and the monthly supply ship was not sent.

The Turks have privately advised US officials that they intend to get essential supplies to the contingent "come what may," and a Foreign Ministry official now describes the problem as "explosive."

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Pakistan-Iran-Turkey: [The three countries are preparing to establish a regional cooperation arrangement, although they have widely divergent aims in doing so.]

[Their plans are to develop economic, technical, and cultural cooperation on a regional basis. Economic ministers are meeting in Ankara today to lay the groundwork for a "summit" meeting in Istanbul on 20 July. Presidents Ayub and Gursel and the Shah hope to announce the agreement at that time.]

[Iran and Turkey apparently view the arrangement as reinforcing CENTO. Pakistan, however, probably hopes that strengthening ties with Iran and Turkey outside the CENTO framework will give it greater freedom in its continuing effort to downgrade Pakistan's participation in CENTO and reinforce its "independent" foreign policy.]

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Lebanon: Proponents of a second term for President Shihab apparently are girding for last-ditch efforts to persuade him not to retire.

The "loyalists"--who are led by former Prime Minister Karame and include army leaders--have decided to press for an extraordinary session of Parliament. They hope to muster the necessary three-quarters majority to override the cabinet's--and Shihab's--rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment which would permit Shihab to succeed himself.

The loyalists' plans may in part be a maneuver designed to retain control over the parliamentary majority which supported Shihab pending agreement on a successor. Several candidates are now in the field but none has yet emerged as a likely choice. The constitution requires that Parliament elect the new president sometime between 23 July and 23 August.

[In an effort to demonstrate popular support for Shihab, Karame and his associates reportedly are also organizing a trade union strike for 20 July, the anniversary of Shihab's 1960 withdrawal of a decision to resign. Opposition forces, led by former President Shamun and the Maronite Catholic Patriarch, are considering counterdemonstrations. The occasion coincides with celebrations on the eve of the Muslim prophet's birthday and violence could easily occur.]

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France - Kennedy Round: [The US Embassy in Paris has cautioned that French exploitation of the Common Market disagreement over grain prices remains a potential "major danger" to the success of the Kennedy Round.]

[Although the embassy believes there are officials in the French Government working to prevent an impasse in the trade negotiations, there are also "strong forces"--represented by Wormser of the Foreign Ministry--which do not want them to succeed.]

[These forces would try to shift the blame for failure from Paris to Bonn by claiming that German refusal to unify grain prices is an insuperable obstacle to Kennedy Round talks on farm problems. They would also absolve Paris by noting the US insistence on simultaneous progress in both the industrial and agricultural phases of the negotiations.]

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